



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
30.07.2003 Bulletin 2003/31

(51) Int Cl.7: **H01F 1/113**

(21) Application number: **03075236.4**

(22) Date of filing: **23.01.2003**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO

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(30) Priority: **25.01.2002 US 351950 P**
09.01.2003 US 339112

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(54) **Magnetic composition**

(57) A magnetic composition is disclosed. The composition includes a polymeric mixture and a magnetic material.

Description

CLAIM OF BENEFIT OF FILING DATE

[0001] The present application claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/351,950 (filed January 25, 2002), hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates generally to an improved magnetic composition, and more particularly to an improved magnetic composition, which may be employed for sealing, baffling, vibrational and acoustical dampening, structural reinforcing, combinations thereof or the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] For many years, industry and particularly the transportation industry has been concerned with designing compositions that function to provide sealing, baffling, vibrational and acoustical dampening, structural reinforcement, combinations thereof or the like to articles of manufacture such as transportation vehicles (e.g., automotive vehicles). Additionally, it is typically desirable for these compositions to exhibit one or more properties that allow the compositions to be more functional, processible or the like. In the interest of continuing such innovation, the present invention provides an improved magnetic composition.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] Accordingly, the present invention provides a magnetic composition. The composition is preferably comprised of a polymeric mixture, an additive and a magnetic material. The polymeric mixture may include one or more of a variety of different polymers such as thermoplastics, thermoset or thermosettable polymers, plastics, elastomers, combinations thereof or the like. The additive is preferably a functional agent such as a tackifier, a flexibility agent or the like. The magnetic material preferably includes one or more metallic components, which may be part of ceramic material.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention is directed to an improved magnetic composition that is preferably polymeric and more preferably polymeric elastomers, plastics or the like. As used herein, the term magnetic as it is used to modify composition is intended to mean that the composition includes one or more materials that are magnetizable (i.e., capable of being magnetized), are magnetized or a combination thereof. The composition may be foamed or unfoamed (thus, prepared with or

without blowing agent). The composition may be useful as a sealant, an adhesive, or may be incorporated into a structural foam material or member. In one embodiment, the composition is provided on a rigid or flexible substrate (e.g., metal (foamed or unfoamed), plastic (foamed, unfoamed, thermoplastic (e.g., polyamide based), thermoset, or otherwise). The substrate is in the form of a baffle, a cavity reinforcement, or some other structural reinforcement, or insert adapted for reducing noise, vibration or harshness, particularly in an automotive vehicle. The composition may also be used by itself in the absence of a substrate. Examples of applications include those set forth, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,296,298; 6,311,452; 6,131,897; 6,103,341; and 5,985,435 incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. In another application, the composition is adapted for extrusion, such as through a mini-applicator, of the type described in U.S. Patent No. 5,358,397, incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

[0006] The composition of the present invention preferably includes one or more of the following components:

- 1) a polymeric mixture;
- 2) an additive; and
- 3) a magnetic material.

Polymeric mixture

[0007] The polymeric mixture of the present invention typically includes one or more polymeric materials, which may be provided as resins or otherwise. The polymeric materials of the polymeric mixture may include elastomers, plastomers, plastics, thermoplastics, thermoset or thermosettable polymers, combinations thereof or the like. It should be recognized that the polymer ingredients may be homopolymers, copolymers, blends or otherwise. The composition of the invention may include up to about 95 % by weight polymeric mixture or more and a little as 5% by weight polymeric mixture or less. Preferably the composition includes between about 5 % and about 85 % by weight polymeric mixture, more preferably between about 10 % and about 55 % by weight polymeric mixture, still more preferably between about 25 % and about 45 % by weight polymeric mixture.

[0008] In preferred embodiments, the polymeric mixture of the present invention includes a substantial portion of thermoplastic. Preferred thermoplastic polymeric materials useful in the present invention are polyolefins, preferably copolymers and terpolymers containing ethylene, for example, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, ethylene ethyl acrylate, ethylene-vinyl acetate-glycidyl methacrylate, ethylene acrylate-maleic anhydride, and ethylene-propylene copolymers. Also, certain block copolymers such as a styrenebutadiene block copolymers may be suitable. Copolymers and terpolymers containing polyvinyl chloride are also preferred for use

herein. Preferred thermosetting polymeric mixtures for use in the present invention are epoxies, acrylates, polyurethanes and combinations thereof.

[0009] Typically, the polymeric mixture includes one or more ethylene-propylene copolymer (EP) rubbers or ethylene-propylene-diene terpolymer rubbers (EPDM). Preferably, between about 7 % and about 15 % of the EPDM is relatively high in ethylene content and includes greater than about 40% by weight ethylene content, more preferably greater than about 55 % by weight ethylene content, and still more preferably greater than about 70 % by weight ethylene content. Moreover, the overall composition preferably includes up to or greater than about 18 % by weight EPDM, more preferably between about 4 % and 13 % by weight EPDM and still more preferably between about 6 % and about 11 % by weight EPDM. Examples of preferred ethylene-propylene rubbers are sold under the tradename ROY-ALENE® 301-T and TRILENE® 67, both commercially available from the Crompton Corporation - Uniroyal Chemical, One American Lane, Greenwich, Connecticut, 06831-2559; and VISTALON® 7000, commercially available from Exxon Mobil Chemical, 13501 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas, 77079-1398.

[0010] The polymeric mixture also typically includes one or more acrylic copolymer materials (e.g., acrylate copolymers), and preferably includes a copolymer of ethylene acrylate, butyl acrylate or a combination thereof. It is contemplated that the acrylate polymer is up to or greater than about 15 % by weight of the composition, preferably between about 3 % and about 12 % by weight of the composition and still more preferably between about 5 % and about 9 % by weight of the composition. One exemplary preferred copolymer of ethylene and butyl acrylate is sold under the tradename LOTRYL® 35 BA 40, commercially available from Atofina Chemicals, Inc., 2000 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-3222.

[0011] In a highly preferred embodiment, the polymeric mixture includes one or more halogenated elastomers or rubbers, (e.g., a brominated, chlorinated or fluorinated elastomer). It is contemplated that the halogenated elastomer may be provided as a liquid or otherwise. Preferably, the composition includes up to or greater than about 15 % by weight of a halogenated elastomer, more preferably between about 1 % and about 10 % by weight of a halogenated elastomer and still more preferably between about 2 % and about 4 % by weight of a halogenated elastomer. One exemplary suitable halogenated elastomer is a brominated elastomer that is derived from a copolymer of isobutylene and p-methylstyrene. Such an elastomer is sold under the tradename EXXPRO®, commercially available from Exxon Mobil Chemical, 13501 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas, 77079-1398.

[0012] Additionally or alternatively, the polymeric mixture preferably includes one or more polybutenes, although not necessarily required. When included, the polybutenes are preferably present in an amount up to

or greater than 30 % by weight of the magnetic composition, more preferably between about 5 % and about 25 % by weight of the composition, even more preferably between about 10 % and about 20 % by weight of the composition and still more preferably between about 12 % and about 16 % by weight of the composition. One preferred exemplary polybutene is sold under the tradename INDOPOL H-1500, commercially available from Indopol Polybutenes, 150 West Warrenville Road, Mail Code CS-3, Naperville, Illinois, 60563-8460.

[0013] It is also contemplated that the polymeric mixture may include one or more polymer sub-mixtures. Such sub-mixtures, when included, are preferably present in the composition in an amount up to or greater than 15 % by weight of the magnetic composition, more preferably between about 1 % and 10 % by weight of the composition and even more preferably between about 2 % and about 6% by weight of the composition. Preferably, such a sub-mixture includes an elastomer mixed (e.g., compounded, blended, reacted or the like) with another polymer such as a plastic, a thermoplastic, another elastomer or the like. One highly preferred sub-mixture includes an elastomer or butylene based material such as polyisobutylene and a styrenic material such as polymethylstyrene.

Magnetic Material

[0014] The magnetic material of the composition is preferably provided as particles and the particles may be provided in a variety of shapes and configurations. As an example, the particles may be provided as shavings, spheres, powders, combinations thereof or the like. The composition of the present invention may include up to about 70 % by weight magnetic material or more and as little as 1.0 % by weight magnetic material or less. Preferably, the composition includes between about 10 % and about 60 % by weight magnetic material, more preferably between about 20 % and about 50 % by weight magnetic material and even more preferably between about 30 % and about 40 % by weight magnetic material.

[0015] It is to be understood that virtually any magnetic particles can be used in the present invention. Preferred magnetic particles for use in the present invention are ferrites, such as barium ferrite and strontium ferrite. Also preferred are iron oxides. One particularly preferred type of magnetic particles for use in the present invention is sold under the tradename HM406 "Star-mag" ceramic powder, commercially available from Hoosier Magnetics, Inc., 65 Main Street, Postdam, NY 13676. The particle size of the magnetic particles is preferably between about 0.1 and 100 microns in diameter and more preferably from about 1 to about 10 microns, with the average magnetized particle size being preferably from about 0.5 to 10 microns, e.g., about 2 to about 5 microns.

Reinforcement Materials

[0016] It is contemplated that the composition of the present invention may include one or more reinforcement materials for improving properties such as strength, stiffness, sag resistance, flow control or the like of the composition. While various reinforcement materials may be employed, preferred reinforcement materials are fiber materials, which may be dispersed within the composition. The magnetic composition of the present invention may include up to about 10 % by weight reinforcement material or more and as little as 0.001 % by weight reinforcement material or less. Preferably, the composition includes between about 3 % and about 0.008 % by weight reinforcement material, more preferably between about 0.7 % and about 0.03 % by weight reinforcement material and even more preferably between about 0.3 % and about 0.07 % by weight reinforcement material.

[0017] As an example, the composition may include organic fibers, inorganic fibers, other fibers, combinations thereof or the like. Examples of such fibers include, without limitation, polyamide (e.g., nylon, aromatic polyamide and polyamideimide) fibers, aramid fibers, ceramic fibers, polyester fibers, glass fibers, silicon carbide fibers, alumina fibers, titanium fibers, steel fibers, carbon fibers and graphite fibers or the like. It is also contemplated that reinforcement fabrics such as weavings, rovings or the like may be integrated into the sheet molding compound and that such fabrics may be formed of the fibers discussed herein or other fibers as well.

Blowing Agent

[0018] If desired, the composition of the present invention may be activatable to expand, foam or both and may include one or more blowing agents for at least assisting the activation of the composition. The blowing agents may be pressure activated, heat activated, chemically activated, radiation activated or the like.

[0019] In a preferred embodiment, the blowing agent is heat activated. Exemplary heat-activated blowing agents may include one or more nitrogen containing groups such as amides, amines and the like. Examples of suitable blowing agents include azodicarbonamide, dinitrosopentamethylenetetramine, azodicarbonamide, dinitrosopentamethylenetetramine, 4,4'-oxy-bis-(benzenesulphonylhydrazide), trihydrazinotriazine and N, N'-dimethyl-N, N'-dinitrosoterephthalamide.

[0020] An accelerator for the blowing agents may also be provided in the expandable material. Various accelerators may be used to increase the rate at which the blowing agents form gasses (e.g., inert gasses). One preferred blowing agent accelerator is a metal salt, or is an oxide, e.g. a metal oxide, such as zinc oxide. One exemplary preferred zinc oxide is a powder sold under the tradename ZOCO 100, commercially available from Zochem, Brampton, Ontario. Other preferred accelera-

tors include modified and unmodified thiazoles or imidazoles.

[0021] Amounts of blowing agents and blowing agent accelerators can vary widely within the expandable material depending upon the type of cellular structure desired, the desired amount of expansion of the expandable material, the desired rate of expansion and the like. Exemplary ranges for the amounts of blowing agents and blowing agent accelerators in the expandable material range from about 0.0001 % by weight to about 5 % by weight for each component and are preferably in the composition in fractions of weight percentages.

[0022] Most preferred blowing agents produce a volumetric expansion of from about 25% to about 2000% by volume, and more preferably 700% to 1500%. The preferred blowing agent is fully activated at about 50 to about 200° C. A blowing agent promoter such as a surface-coated urea, for example BIK 0T (Naugatuck Chemicals) may also be included, e.g., in a concentration of from about 0.005 to about 1.0 percent by weight.

Curing Agents

[0023] The composition typically includes one or more curing (e.g., crosslinking, vulcanizing or the like) agents. Any suitable curing agent may be employed in the composition and the amount of curing agent may vary widely depending upon desired reaction rates. In one preferred embodiment, a cross-linking acrylic monomer is present in the composition in an amount between about 0.01 % to about 3 % by weight and more preferably in an amount between about 0.30 % to about 1 % by weight. One preferred acrylic monomer is a dipentaerythritol pentaacrylate sold under the alphanumeric designation SR-399, commercially available from Sartomer, 502 Thomas Jones Way, Exton, PA 19341. Exemplary alternative acrylic monomers include ditrimethylopropane tetraacrylate and ethoxylated pentaerythritol tetraacrylate.

[0024] Additionally or alternatively, the composition may include a vulcanizing agent. When included, various vulcanizing agents may be utilized in amounts ranging from about 0.01 % to about 4 % by weight of the magnetic composition. One exemplary vulcanizing agent is a 1,1-bis(tert-butylperoxy)3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, which is prepared on an inert fill and is sold under the tradename Varox 231-XL, commercially available from the R.T. Vanderbilt Company, Inc., 30 Winfield Street, P.O. Box 5150, Norwalk, Connecticut 06856-5150.

Fillers

[0025] The composition of the present invention may also include one or more fillers, including but not limited to particulated materials (e.g., powder), beads, microspheres, or the like. Preferably the filler includes a relatively low-density material that is generally non-reac-

tive with the other components present in the composition.

[0026] Examples of fillers include silica, diatomaceous earth, glass, clay, talc, pigments, colorants, glass beads or bubbles, glass, carbon ceramic fibers, antioxidants, and the like. Such fillers, particularly clays, can assist the expandable material in leveling itself during flow of the material. The clays that may be used as fillers may include clays from the kaolinite, illite, chloritem, smectite or sepiolite groups, which may be calcined. Examples of suitable fillers include, without limitation, talc, vermiculite, pyrophyllite, sauconite, saponite, nontronite, montmorillonite or mixtures thereof. The clays may also include minor amounts of other ingredients such as carbonates, feldspars, micas and quartz. The fillers may also include ammonium chlorides such as dimethyl ammonium chloride and dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride. Titanium dioxide might also be employed.

[0027] In one preferred embodiment, one or more mineral or stone type fillers such as calcium carbonate, sodium carbonate or the like may be used as fillers. In another preferred embodiment, silicate minerals such as mica may be used as fillers. It has been found that, in addition to performing the normal functions of a filler, silicate minerals and mica in particular.

[0028] When employed, the fillers in the composition can range from 10 % to 90 % by weight of the composition. According to some embodiments, the composition may include from about 0 % to about 3 % by weight, and more preferably slightly less than 1 % by weight clays or similar fillers. Powdered (e.g. about 0.01 to about 50, and more preferably about 1 to 25 micron mean particle diameter) mineral type filler can comprise between about 5 % and 70 % by weight, more preferably about 10 % to about 20 %, and still more preferably approximately 13 % by weight of the composition.

Additives

[0029] The composition typically includes one or more additives (e.g., functional additives) for improving one or more various properties of the composition. As examples, additives may include antioxidants, antiozonants, ultraviolet absorbers, antistatic agents, colorants, coupling agents, curing agents, flame retardants, blowing agents, heat stabilizers, impact modifiers, lubricants, plasticizers, preservatives, processing aids and stabilizers and combinations thereof or the like.

[0030] One additive, which may be provided in the composition is an adhesive or tackifier (e.g., a tackifying polymeric mixture), which may be added to the composition for enhancing adhesion, peel strength or both. Preferably, the tackifier is a hydrocarbon tackifier based tackifier and more preferably is an aromatically modified C5 or C5:C9 hydrocarbon. When included, the tackifying polymeric mixture is up to or greater than about 15 % by weight of the composition, preferably about 2 % to

about 12 % by weight of the composition and still more preferably between about 5 % and about 9 % by weight of the composition. One preferred exemplary tackifier is sold under the tradename WINGTACK™, commercially available from Goodyear Chemical, Akron, Ohio.

[0031] Another potential additive for the composition is oil which can act as a flexibility agent (e.g., paraffinic oil). When included, the composition preferably includes between about 2 % and about 30 % by weight oil, more preferably between about 5 % and about 15 % by weight oil and most preferably between about 7 % and about 11 % by weight oil. One particularly preferred paraffinic oil is sold under the tradename SUNPAR 2280, commercially available from Sunoco, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

[0032] It is also contemplated that the magnetic composition may include one or more anti-corrosion agents. Preferably, the magnetic composition includes between up to or greater than about 15 % by weight anti-corrosion agent, more preferably between about 2 % and about 10 % by weight anti-corrosion agent and still more preferably between about 4 % and about 6 % by weight anti-corrosion agent. One particular preferred anti-corrosion agent is a coumarone-indene polymeric mixture sold under the tradename CUMAR® R-13, commercially available from the Neville Chemical Company, Pittsburgh, PA.

[0033] The magnetic composition of the present invention may be prepared according to any suitable technique. Preferably, the composition is prepared using conventional batch processing techniques, which will be familiar to those skilled in the art. Briefly, the raw materials are added to a mixer and mixed until fully blended. A planar sheet, strip, tape or other structure is then preferably formed, such as by extruding the magnetic composition into the form of a sheet which may then be die cut to a specific shape. Such sheet might have a thickness of from about 0.1 mm to about 5.0 mm. Larger or smaller thicknesses are also possible. It may also be possible to form a liquid coating composition that employs the present composition.

[0034] The magnetic materials are magnetized in any suitable manner. A number of magnetizers are available for this purpose. Most preferred is a capacitive discharge magnetizer, which provides large magnetic field densities. Although capacitive discharge is a discontinuous process, by properly spacing the discharge intervals, a sheet can be fully magnetized as it moves along a conveyor to magnetize the magnetic material of the magnetic composition. Permanent magnetic magnetizers may also be used effectively. Desirably, a magnetic field density of at least about 25 gauss and more preferably at least 50 gauss is generated by the composition.

[0035] The magnetic composition may be applied in nearly any shape to nearly any surface of any substrate. In a preferred application, the composition is contacted with a metal component (e.g., a frame or body compo-

nent) of an article of manufacture (e.g., an automotive vehicle).

[0036] Advantageously, it has been found that the magnetic composition of the present invention is effective for attaching (e.g., adhering and/or magnetizing) itself to components and particularly metal components. As an example, a magnetized composition according to the present invention can be formulated to attach to a metal (e.g., steel) component such that the composition exhibits a peel strength (e.g., at 90°) of up to or greater than 45 grams per millimeter and more preferably up to or greater than 50 grams per millimeter. Of course, a magnetized composition according to the present invention is not required to exhibit such strength.

[0037] The preferred embodiment of the present invention has been disclosed. A person of ordinary skill in the art would realize however, that certain modifications would come within the teachings of this invention. Therefore, the following claims should be studied to determine the true scope and content of the invention.

Claims

1. A magnetic composition, comprising:
 - i. a polymeric mixture, the polymeric mixture including;
 - ii. ethylene-propylene rubber; and
 - iii. acrylic copolymer;

an additive, which is a functional agent selected from the group of a tackifier or a flexibility agent; and

a magnetic material, the magnetic material being at least partially formed of a ceramic.
2. A magnetic composition as in claim 1 wherein the composition exhibits a peel strength at 90° of greater than 45 grams per millimeter upon attachment to a metal component.
3. A magnetic composition as in claim 1 or 2 further comprising a halogenated elastomer.
4. A magnetic composition as in claim 3 wherein the halogenated elastomer is a brominated elastomer that is derived from a copolymer of isobutylene and p-methylstyrene.
5. A magnetic composition as in any of the preceding claims wherein between about 7 % and about 15 % of the ethylene-propylene rubber has an ethylene content greater than about 55 % by weight.
6. A magnetic composition as in claim 5 wherein the ethylene content is greater than about 70 % by weight.
7. A magnetic composition as in any of the preceding claims wherein the polymeric mixture includes a sub-mixture of a polyisobutylene and polymethylstyrene.
8. A magnetic composition as in any of the preceding claims wherein the magnetic material is a ferrite.
9. A magnetic composition as in any of the preceding claims wherein the magnetic material is present in an amount between about 10 % and about 60 % by weight of the composition, the magnetic material being barium ferrite, strontium ferrite or combinations thereof.
10. A magnetic composition as in claim any of the preceding claims further comprising a blowing agent in an amount between about 0.001 % and about 5 % by weight of the composition and a curing agent in an amount between about 0.01 % and about 3 % by weight of the composition.
11. A magnetic composition as in any of the preceding claims wherein the additive is a tackifying agent, which is a hydrocarbon.
12. A magnetic composition as any of the preceding claims wherein the additive is a tackifying agent, which is an aromatically modified C5 hydrocarbon tackifying resin.
13. A magnetic composition as in any of the preceding claims wherein the polymeric mixture includes polybutene; and
14. A magnetic composition as in any of the preceding claims wherein the flexibility agent comprises a paraffinic oil.
15. A magnetic composition as in any of the preceding claims further comprising a coumarone-indene resin.



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
28.01.2004 Bulletin 2004/05

(51) Int Cl.7: **H01F 1/113, H01F 1/117**

(43) Date of publication A2:
30.07.2003 Bulletin 2003/31

(21) Application number: **03075236.4**

(22) Date of filing: **23.01.2003**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
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HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE SI SK TR
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European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 07 5236

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 198849 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A12, AN 1988-349229 XP002263647 & JP 63 260112 A (JAPAN SYNTHETIC RUBBER CO LTD), 27 October 1988 (1988-10-27)	1,3,8	H01F1/113 H01F1/117
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H01F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		3 December 2003	Decanniere, L
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPOFORM 1503 (01/02) (7/94-2001)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 07 5236

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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03-12-2003

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 63260112	A	27-10-1988	NONE

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